

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 239389
ORIGIN MCT-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SY-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00
/032 R

DRAFTED BY MCT:HISHAM:JD
APPROVED BY MCT:HISHAM
NEA:NAVELIOTES
M:BREAD (SUBSTANCE)
-----047752 050152Z /63
O 050050Z OCT 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 239389

FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, AG

SUBJECT: JAL HIJACKING: GOA POSITION ON SANCTUARY
FOR TERRORISTS

1. THE DEPARTMENT IS GRATIFIED THAT THE JAL HIJACKING WHICH TERMINATED IN ALGIERS OCTOBER 3 OCCASIONED NO CASUALTIES AMONG THE REMAINING HOSTAGES ABOARD, INCLUDING ONE AMERICAN CITIZEN, THOMAS PHELAN. THE GOA'S DECISION TO ALLOW THE AIRCRAFT TO LAND IN ALGERIA WAS, OF COURSE, AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE RELEASE OF THE FINAL HOSTAGES WHICH SUPPORTS GOA PORTRAYAL OF ITS ROLE AS "HUMANITARIAN."

2. HOWEVER, THE STIFF PRECONDITIONS WHICH THE GOA RETRACTED FROM THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT IN EXCHANGE FOR PERMISSION TO LAND THE AIRCRAFT AND THE SUBSEQUENT GOA DECISION ON HOW TO DEAL WITH THE TERRORISTS COULD RESULT IN CHANGED
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INTERNATIONAL PERCEPTIONS OF NATURE OF GOA ACTIONS, PARTICULARLY IF GOA DECIDES TO RELEASE OR GIVE SANCTUARY TO TERRORISTS.

3. IN THIS RESPECT, AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW, SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE IN RECENT HEARINGS HAS AGAIN EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT USG IS NOT DOING ENOUGH TO COMBAT INTER-

NATIONAL TERRORISM, PARTICULARLY IN RELATIONS WITH

COUNTRIES SEEN TO BE AIDING OR HARBORING TERRORISTS. WITH THIS IN MIND, AND GIVEN OUR WELL-KNOWN POLICIES PLUS FACT U.S. CITIZENS WERE INVOLVED, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT IMPORTANT TO COMMUNICATE OUR VIEWS TO GOA AS IT REPORTEDLY IS DECIDING ON ITS NEXT STEPS.

4. YOU SHOULD ASAP MAKE OUR VIEWS KNOWN TO APPROPRIATE GOA OFFICIAL, DRAWING ON FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS.

-- THE USG IS GRATIFIED THAT THE HIJACKING OCCASIONED NO CASUALTIES AMONG THE REMAINING HOSTAGES ABOARD THE JAL AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING ONE AMERICAN CITIZEN. THE GOA'S DECISION TO ALLOW THE AIRCRAFT TO LAND IN ALGERIA WAS, OF COURSE, AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE RELEASE OF THE FINAL HOSTAGES. THE USG APPRECIATES THE ROLE THAT ALGERIA HAS PLAYED IN SAVING THE LIVES NOT ONLY OF THE AMERICAN CITIZEN BUT ALL OF THE HOSTAGES INVOLVED.

-- WE WOULD HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOA IN DECIDING ITS NEXT STEPS WILL NOT TAKE ACTIONS THAT WILL BE PERCEIVED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS, IN EFFECT, GIVING SANCTUARY OR OTHERWISE AIDING AND ABETTING TERRORISTS. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE DECISION OF THE GOA IS ITS ALONE TO MAKE AND WE WOULD NOT WISH TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO INTERFERE, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT THE GOA WILL ACCEPT OUR COMMENTS IN THE FRIENDLY SPIRIT IN WHICH THEY ARE OFFERED.

-- WE TRUST THAT THE GOA SHARES OUR VIEW THAT THIS INCIDENT REEMPHASIZES THE URGENT NEED TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO COMBAT AND TO PREVENT SUCH ACTIONS WHICH THREATEN THE LIVES OF INNOCENT CITIZENS OF ALL NATIONS.

5. BEFORE MAKING THIS DEMARCHE, YOU MAY WISH TO CONSULT WITH OTHER CHIEFS OF MISSION IN ALGIERS WHOSE NATIONALS OR COUNTRIES WERE INVOLVED IN THIS INCIDENT, WHO SHARE OUR VIEWS ON THIS ISSUE, AND WHO MIGHT BE WILLING TO MAKE SIMILAR DEMARCHES.

CHRISTOPHER

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PAGE 01 STATE 239389
ORIGIN MCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 /024 R

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DRAFTED BY M/CT:J E KARKASHIAN:PAD
M/CT:AMB. ISHAM

-----071285 052225Z /73

O 052212Z OCT 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 239389

FOL RPT STATE 239389 ACTION ALGIERS 5 OCT 77 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 239389

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CHRISTOPHER

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 05-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: PINS, EAIR, AG
To: ALGIERS
Type: TE
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Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
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